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WASHINGTON STAR

Kennedy Flies To CIA; Cites Retiring Dulles

By CECIL HOLLAND
Star Staff Writer

President Kennedy flew by helicopter to the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency at Langley, Va., today to present the National Security Medal to Allen W. Dulles.

Mr. Dulles is retiring after 11 years with this country's top intelligence agency.

In ceremonies attended by several top officials and several hundred CIA employes, the President paid tribute to Mr. Dulles for long, distinguished and unheralded service.

"Your successes go unnoticed, your failures are advertised," the President said. "I sometimes have that feeling myself," he added.

Served Under 7 Presidents

The President noted that Mr. Dulles had served under seven Presidents, going back to Woodrow Wilson, in various capacities, and said he knew of no one with such a record.

Joining in the ceremony at the super-secret intelligence headquarters was John A. McCone, who will succeed Mr. Dulles as head of the agency.

Mr. McCone will be sworn in at a White House ceremony tomorrow with the President on hand. The oath will be administered by Chief Justice Warren.

Mr. Dulles, speaking briefly, recalled that he came to the CIA 11 years ago and flew to the task. He had prepared a report for the late Gen. Bedell Smith, then CIA director, but said Gen. Smith told him to come to Washington and tell him how recommendations in the report could be put into effect. The assignment was expected to require about six weeks.

"Our successes have been unsung," Mr. Dulles said. "Our failures advertised."

'Work in Good Hands'

"I go leaving the work in good hands. . . . I receive this medal for all of you."

Mr. Dulles will rejoin the New York law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell with which he and his brother, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, were long associated. He said he would be available as a consultant to the new CIA director.

Among those present for the ceremony was FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, an earlier recipient of the medal.

The White House made no prior announcement of the President's visit to the CIA headquarters and limited news coverage to a small number of reporters. No pictures were allowed because of the large number of CIA employes who attended the ceremony. This, a White House spokesman said, was at the request of security officials for security reasons.

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